United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400

January 6, 2003

Ms. Jil Swearingen
Entomologist
NPS National Capital Region
Center for Urban Ecology
4598 MacArthur Blvd.
NW Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ms. Swearingen:

On September 30, 2002, personnel from our office conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at the Great Falls Area of the C & O Canal National Historical Park. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2003.

The locations of the egg mass survey plots and the 2002 treatment area are shown in Figure 1. The results of the survey are summarized in Table 1. In brief, the egg mass densities ranged from 0-400 egg masses per acre and averaged 84 egg masses per acre. This is a 97 percent reduction in the gypsy moth population densities from last year's average of 2, 816 egg masses per acre.

The suppression project objectives of foliage protection and population reduction were successfully met this past year. No defoliation was detected during the aerial detection survey at the Great Falls Area this past summer. The high population reduction was probably not just a result of the gypchek application but also from the presence of the *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus.

Based on these results, no noticeable defoliation is expected at the Great Falls Area in 2003 and no treatment is recommended.

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please contact Karen Felton at (304) 285-1556.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Enclosure

cc: Susan Alberts, C&O Canal
Robert Tichenor, MDA
Betsie Handley, MDA
Noel Schneeberger, AO

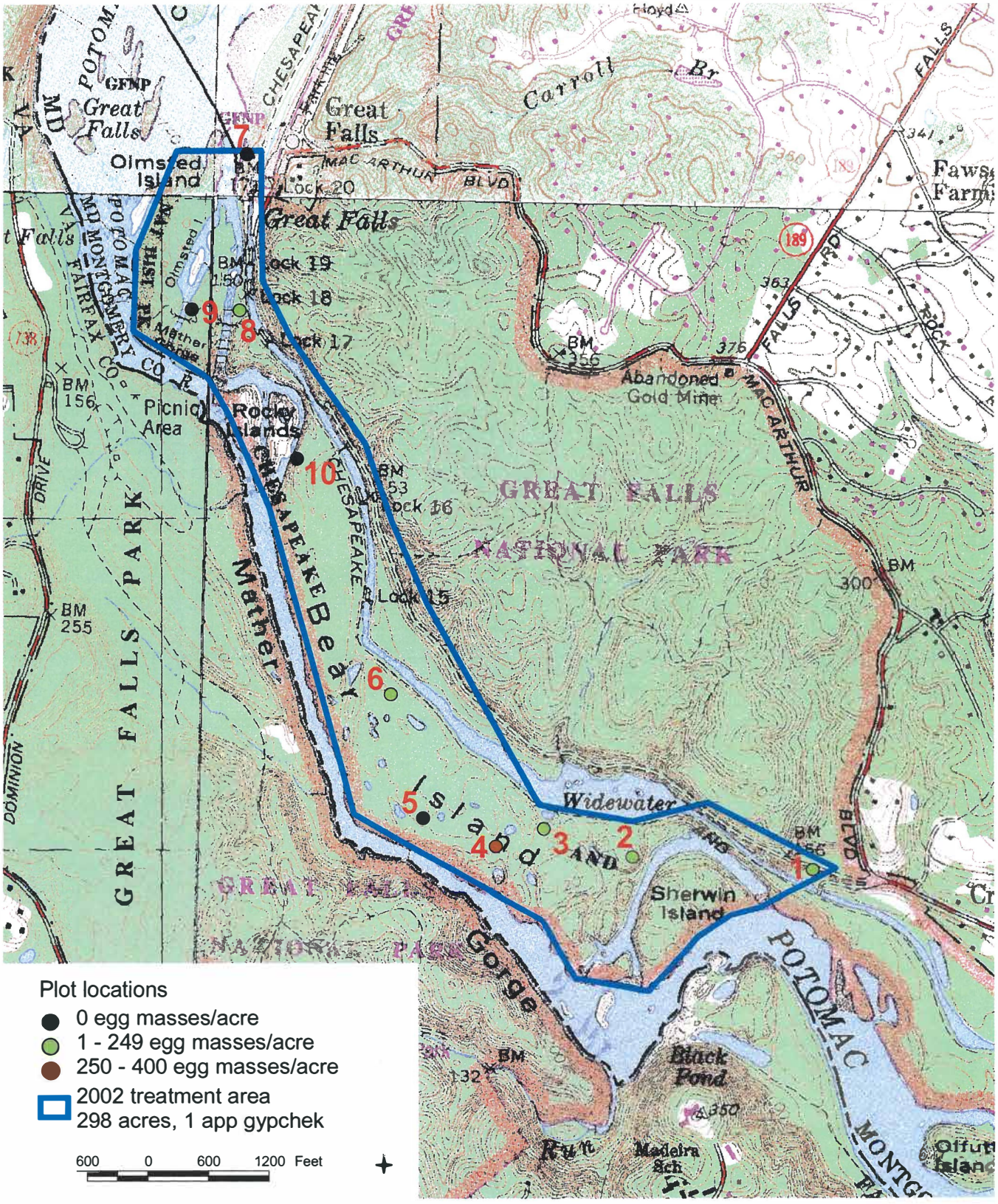
Table 1 – Gypsy moth egg mass survey results at C&O Canal National Historic Park – Great Falls Area, September 30, 2002.

Plot Number	Average EM acre	Average EM length (mm)	% New EM
1	80	--	--
2	40	--	--
3	200	22	11
4	400	23	8
5	0	--	--
6	40	--	--
7	0	--	--
8	80	--	--
9	0	--	--
10	0	--	--

Average egg masses per acre = 84
Range of egg masses per acre = 0-400
Average length of egg masses = 23mm

* Egg mass densities reduced approximately 97% from a pre-treatment level of 2,816 em/acre to a current level of 84 em/acre.

Figure 1.--Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations at C & O Canal National Historic Park - Great Falls Area, September 30, 2002 and the 2002 treatment area.



USDA Forest Service, FHP, S&PF, NA, Morgantown, WV

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